CIA Error

False Photos Of 'Oswald'

NEW YORK (UPI) — The New York Review of Books released Monday two pictures of a man whom it says the CIA, in the months just preceding the assassination of Preident Kennedy, incorrectly identified as Lee Harvey Oswald.

"The man in both photographs clearly is not Oswald," the publication said. The photographs were released in connection with an article in the April 3, 1975, issue of the periodical, written by Bernard Fensterwald and George O'Toole. The article did not say when and where the pictures of the false "Oswald" were taken. It said former CIA direcor Richard Helms has testified the pictures were taken in Mexico, and a spokesman for the magazine said the pictures "were apparently taken by hidden CIA cameras that routinely photograph all visitors entering and departing Communist embassies." O'Toole, co-author of the article, is identified as an exCIA official. Fensterwald, the Review says, is a Washington, D.C., attorney who obtained the photographs from the National Archives "as a result of his suit under the Freedom of Information Act."

Their joint article, titled "The CIA and the Man Who Was Not Oswald," tells of the alleged confusion resulting from the wrong identification of a man who reportedly contacted the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City in October 1963 asking for news about a telegram which had been sent to Washington. The Review article says the CIA sent a teletype message to the FBI and to the departments of State and Navy saying the man who contacted the embassy had identified himself as "Lee Oswald" and described him as an American, "approximately 35 years old, with an athletic build, about six feet tall, with a receding hairline."

According to the article the CIA teletype message also said that "it is believed that Oswald may be identical to Lee Henry Oswald" a former U.S. Marine who defected to Russia and later was repatriated with his Russian-born wife.

Fensterwald and O'Toole say that Helms, head of the CIA at the time, apparently agreed that the Lee Henry Oswald of the CIA message was Lee Harvey Oswald.

"But Lee Harvey Oswald was not 'approximately 35 years old, with an athletic build', he was twenty-three years old and slender," the Review article says.

Apparently, the article said, the CIA was concerned about the discrepancy and sent another message to the Navy Department asking for two copies of Oswald's most recent photograph, which we will "forward to our representative in Mexico, who will attempt to determine if the Lee Oswald in Mexico City and the subject is the same individual."

According to the authors of the Review article a Helms memorandum shows that the Navy photographs never were received by the CIA and it was only after the assassination that the CIA concluded two persons were involved.

UPI Photo

The man the CIA incorrectly identified as Lee Harvey Oswald, according to the New York Review of Books.